

10-2868/a

20 April 1958

cash
William Benton, Esq.
Publisher & Chairman
Encyclopaedia Britannica
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Bill:

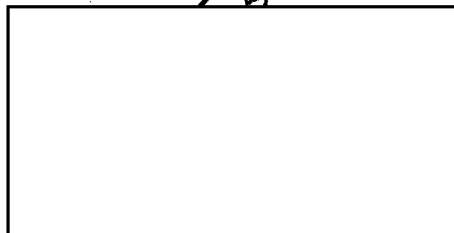
I have your letter of April 8, 1958,
with regard to Britannica's current "Book of the
Year". I sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness
in sending me a copy.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *B*)

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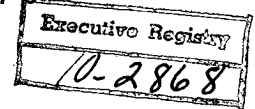
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NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

WILLIAM BENTON
PUBLISHER & CHAIRMAN

April 8, 1958

The Honorable Allen Dulles
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Allen:

I am asking my Chicago office to send you, with my best wishes, Britannica's current "Book of the Year". It is just off the press.

This 1958 edition, which records major American and world developments of 1957, contains above a million words and some 500 illustrations and tables - in more than a thousand articles. If you couple these figures with the fact that the 1958 printing of the Encyclopaedia Britannica itself - the parent of the Yearbook - contains four million new words (out of 39 million), you will get some idea of the pace of change in the modern world.

It is of course a temptation each year to try to spot those developments which will have the greatest historical impact. Few would deny first place for 1957 to the sputniks. I like to think those who read my 1956 Britannica Yearbook article on "The Voice of the Kremlin" were not unprepared for this Soviet achievement. In his special article for this year's book, Ambassador Bowles leads off appropriately on the significance of the sputniks. I call your attention also to the imaginative article on communications by my associate, President Maurice Mitchell of Encyclopaedia Britannica Films, and to the wonderful drawings by Saul Steinberg that illustrate it.

My hunch is that 1957 may also be remembered as the year a "test depression" began to develop in the United States. Has America at last learned to counteract the early symptoms of depression so as to prevent their deepening into disaster? In today's world of competitive co-existence, the answer 1958 gives us will affect profoundly the shape of the future throughout the earth.

I hope you may find many reasons during the coming months to use Britannica's Book of the Year. I am happy to be able to send it to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Benton".

William Benton